

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 8, replace lines 1-10 with the following:

acids or proteins. A suitable material for binding non-specifically to nucleic acids include silica-based material such as silicon oxide and aluminum oxide and synthetic polymers. However, a host of other naturally occurring or chemically modified elements that are known to bind non-specifically to nucleic acids or proteins may be used. The sample collection assembly can also be coated with gold, platinum or other material to enhance electrical or electrochemical conductivity. The sample collection assembly can also be coated with singular or dendritic oligonucleotide probes, peptide probes or cell receptors to capture specific target molecules. The use of dendritic probes in conjunction with the sample collection assembly described herein can further significantly increase the capture surface area and significantly enhance analytical and clinical sensitivity.